

Atty. Docket No. CQ10195
PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/733,894

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 10-20 are all the claims pending in the application.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for courtesies extended to Applicants during Examiner's telephonic interview with Applicants' representative, which took place on November 1, 2006. As it was discussed during the interview, Applicants file this Response with Applicants' arguments in support of patentability of the pending claims over the cited art.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6 and 10-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Salesky et al. (U.S. patent No. 6,343,313). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the following arguments.

Specifically, Salesky et al. fails to teach or suggest the claimed invitation storage memory that stores invitation information regarding invitations to join at least one document-centered discussion, wherein the invitation information comprises identities of entities invited to join the at least one discussion. Salesky et al. never mentions the claimed invitation storage memory, does not disclose invitation information regarding invitations to join at least one document-centered discussion.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the alleged teaching appears at 18, ln. 12-26 and col. 1, ln 65 to col. 2 ln. 7. Applicants carefully examined the cited portions of Salesky et al. but could not find any alleged teaching. None of the above portions of Salesky et al. contain

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any description of the claimed invitation storage memory that stores invitation information regarding invitations to join at least one document-centered discussion including identities of entities invited to join the at least one discussion. "[W]hen the PTO asserts that there is an explicit or implicit teaching or suggestion in the prior art, it must indicate where such a teaching or suggestion appears in the reference." *In re Rijckaert*, 28 USPQ2d 1955, 1957 (Fed. Cir. 1993) (citing *In re Yates*, 663 F.2d 1054, 211 USPQ 1149, 1151 (CCPA 1981)). In the Office Action, the Examiner has failed to do that.

During the Examiner's telephonic interview which took place on November 1, 2006, when asked where the aforesaid teaching is located in the reference, the Examiner indicated that because the system of Salesky et al. verifies whether the user of the client software is authorized to join a meeting (see Salesky et al. col. 18, ln. 19-20), the system of Salesky et al. has to store the identities of the invited users. As Applicants' representative stated during the aforesaid telephonic interview, such interpretation of Salesky et al. is improper. Specifically, storing user's identities is not inherently necessary for verifying whether a user is authorized to join a conference. Such verification could be completed using a single password which is given to all authorized users. At col. 2, ln. 8-15 Salesky et al. specifically teaches generating such a password key. If the user possesses the aforesaid password key, the user could be authorized to join the conference without storing user's identity. Therefore, the Examiner's argument that Salesky et al. has to store identities of the invited users is misplaced.

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Also during the aforesaid interview, the Examiner further stated that Salesky et al. teaches storing identities of all the meeting participants. In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that even assuming for purposes of argument only that this was the case, the stored identities of the meeting participants is not the same as the claimed identities of the invited users. As the Examiner would appreciate, some of the invited users may not actually join the conference, while some users can come without invitation by the system. In other words, the invitation information comprising identities of entities invited to join the at least one discussion is different from identities of all the meeting participants. Salesky et al. never talks about invitations to join a meeting or about storing the identities of the invited users.

In this regard, Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned limitations recited in claims 1 and 4 may not be ignored and that all words in those claims must be considered in evaluating the patentability of the invention over the prior art. Ochiai et al., 37 U.S.P.Q.2d 1127 (Fed. Cir. 1995). For this reason, claims 1 and 4 are not anticipated by Ujita et al.

In addition, as it was discussed during the aforesaid interview, Salesky et al. fails to teach or suggest the view storage memory, which stores view information for each active document-centered discussion, comprising information on each conference participant, which is specifically recited in the amended claims 1 and 4. The Examiner alleges that the aforesaid limitation reads on the conference server storing information regarding scheduled and live presentations, see Final Office Action at page 3. Applicants respectfully disagree. Specifically, the schedule and live presentation information of Salesky et al. does not include the information on each

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conference participant. Moreover, claim 4 includes an additional limitation, wherein the information specific to each invitee who has accepted the invitation is stored in the storage memory. This additional limitation is also not taught or suggested by Salesky et al. The above deficiencies of Salesky et al. provide another reason for patentability of claims 1 and 4 over Salesky et al.

Therefore, for all the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1 and 4 are not anticipated by Salesky et al. With respect to the rejection of dependent claims 2-3, 5-6 and 10-20, while Applicants continue to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of Salesky et al. used by the Examiner in rejecting those claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable by definition, due to their dependency upon patentable parent claims 1 and 4. Therefore, claims 2-3, 5-6 and 10-20 are also not anticipated by Salesky et al.

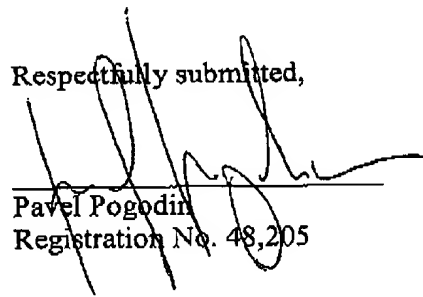
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 6th day of December, 2006.


Monica Moreno